

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

2 (Currently amended). An isolated protein which is capable of binding to tumor necrosis factor receptor-associated 2 protein (TRAF2), said protein consisting of:

(A) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3; or

(B) a variant having an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical with SEQ ID NO:3,
wherein said protein or variant is each capable of binding to TRAF2.

3 (Original). The isolated protein of claim 2, which is a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

Claims 4-19 (Cancelled).

20 (Previously presented). A composition comprising the isolated protein of claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent, or auxiliary agent.

21 (Previously presented). A molecule having the binding portion of an antibody capable of binding to the isolated protein of claim 2.

22 (Original). The molecule of claim 21, which is an antibody.

23 (Original). The molecule of claim 22, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

24 (Previously presented). A composition comprising the molecule of claim 21, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent, or auxiliary agent.

Claims 25-37 (Cancelled).

38 (Currently amended). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, wherein said protein or variant is each capable of binding to a component of the NF- κ B complex selected from the group consisting of IKappaB kinase complex associated protein (IKAP), IKappaB kinase-alpha (IKK-alpha), IKappaB kinase-beta (IKK-beta), IKappaB kinase-gamma (IKK-gamma) and NF- κ B inducing kinase (NIK).

39 (Previously presented). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, which is said variant of (B) having an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical with SEQ ID NO:3.

40 (Previously presented). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, wherein said variant of (B) has an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical with SEQ ID NO:3.

Claim 41 (Cancelled).

42 (Previously presented). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, consisting of a variant of the protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, which variant has an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical with SEQ ID NO:3.

43 (Previously presented). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, consisting of a variant of the protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, which variant has an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical with SEQ ID NO:3.

44 (Previously presented). A molecule having the binding portion of an antibody capable of binding to the isolated protein of claim 3.

45 (Previously presented). The molecule of claim 44, which is an antibody.

46 (Previously presented). The molecule of claim 45, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

47 (Previously presented). The isolated protein of claim 40, wherein said variant has no more than ten amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

48 (Previously presented). The isolated protein of claim 40, wherein said variant has no more than five amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.